

Amendments to the Claims

Please delete claims 8 and 10.

Please amend claims 1-7 and 9 to read as follows:

1. (currently amended): Leash for animals applicable to a vehicle having a frame, ~~in particular leash for dogs applicable to bicycles, tricycles or mopeds, of the type comprising~~

a bar ~~(5)~~,

means for fastening the bar to the frame of the vehicle,

a rope ~~(2)~~ associated to the bar, ~~and provided with~~

means for fastening the rope to the collar of the animal,

wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the bar ~~(5)~~ is internally hollow and houses one or more springs ~~(4) operating in compression when the animal stresses the rope (2)~~.

2. (currently amended): ~~Leash~~ The leash as claimed in claim 1, wherein the means for fastening the bar to the frame of the vehicle comprises:

first fastening means ~~(6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13)~~, capable of anchoring ~~anchored~~ to the frame of the vehicle;

second fastening means ~~(11)~~ associated to the bar and so shaped as to be fastened and/or released ~~rapidly~~ by ~~simple~~ coupling/uncoupling to the first fastening means.

3. (currently amended): ~~Leash~~ The leash as claimed in claim 2, wherein the first fastening means comprises: ~~comprise~~

a pair of semi-cylindrical jaws ~~(7,8)~~ which encompass a frame and are fastened thereto by means of bolts ~~(9,10)~~,

wherein one of the two jaws-(8) has a protuberance-(13) so shaped as to be anchored in a corresponding hollow of the second fastening means-(11).

4. (currently amended): ~~Leash~~ The leash as claimed in claim 2, wherein the second fastening means comprises: ~~comprise~~

a female snap-on rapid coupling-(11), screwed on an end of the bar-(5),
wherein the female snap-on rapid coupling is capable of being and able to be coupled
with a protuberance-(13) exhibited by the first fastening means.

5. (currently amended): ~~Leash~~ The leash as claimed in claim 1, wherein the bar-(5)
further comprises a handle, on an end of the bar proximate to the means for fastening the bar to
the frame of the vehicle, ~~and wherein in correspondence with the ends on the side of the means~~
~~for fastening to the frame of the vehicle, is provided with a grip or handle (12) for use as a~~
~~normal leash once the bar (5) is detached from the vehicle.~~

6. (currently amended): ~~Leash~~ The leash as claimed in claim 1, wherein the one or more
springs comprise at least two springs ~~wherein are present three springs (4) in series easily~~
~~replaceable by simple removal of a closure ogive or cap (3) of the bar and untying a terminal~~
~~knot of the rope.~~

7. (currently amended): ~~Leash~~ The leash as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~the spring (2) is~~
~~constituted by a cable that the rope~~ passes through an eyelet comprised in the means for fastening
the rope to the collar of the animal, wherein the rope traverses at least one spring (4) ~~the spring~~
~~or the springs (4) contained in the bar, (5) and wherein the rope is knotted at the exit from the~~
~~tapered end of the single spring or an end of the spring that is closest to the frame of the vehicle.~~

8. (deleted).

9. (currently amended): ~~Leash~~ The leash as claimed in claim 1, wherein the leash is

arranged projecting laterally from the vehicle and the bar assumes between a substantially horizontal configuration and a configuration~~or one~~ that is inclined downwards by between about 0 - 30 degrees, and substantially orthogonal to the longitudinal axis of the vehicle or slightly inclined backwards by between about 0 - 35 degrees.

10. (deleted).

Please add the following new claims 11-15:

-- 11. (new) The leash as claimed in claim 1, wherein the vehicle is selected from the group consisting of a bicycle, a tricycle or a moped.

12 (new) The leash as claimed in claim 1, wherein the one or more springs are capable of compressing when an animal stresses the rope.

13. (new) The leash as claimed in claim 1, wherein the one or more springs comprise at least three springs in series.

14. (new) The leash as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a closure cap arranged of the bar for retaining the one or more springs in the bar, and which is removable to permit the removal of the one or more springs.

15. (new) A vehicle, comprising the leash of claim 1.

16. (new) The vehicle as claimed in claim 15, wherein the vehicle is selected from the group consisting of a bicycle, a tricycle or a moped. --